Forest coverage area

1067. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the area of forest coverage in the country, State-wise;

whether Government is aware that large scale deforestation is taking place in some States;

if so, the details thereof; and

action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The State-wise forest cover in the country as per 2003 assessment made by Forest Survey of India is given as under:

(Area in km)

States/UT	2003 Assessment
Andhra Pradesh	44,419
Arunachal Pradesh	68,019
Assam	27.826
Bihar	5,558
Chhattisgarh	55,998
Delhi	170
Goa	2,156
Gujarat	14,946
Haryana	1,517
Himachal Pradesh	14353
Jammu & Kashmir	21,267
Jharkhand	22,716
Karnataka	36,449
Kerala	15,577
Madhya Pradesh	76,429
Maharashtra	46,865
Manipur	17,219
Meghalaya	16,839
Mizoram	18,430
Nagaland	13,609
Orissa	48,366
Punjab	1,580
Rajasthan	15,826

States/UT	2003 Assessment
Sikkim	3262,
Tamil Nadu	22,643
Tripura	8.093
Uttar Pradesh	14,118
Uttaranchal	24,465
West Bengal	12,343
Andaman & Nicobar	6,964
Chandigarh	15
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	150
Daman & Diu	8
Lakshdweep	23.
Pondicherry	40
TOTAL :	678,333

(b) to (d) No report regarding large scale deforestation has been received by this Ministry. However, instances of felling of trees do take place, and in all such cases, action is taken by respective State/UT Government as per existing Acts/Rules.

Forest clearance for Irrigation Projects

1068. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the names of six irrigation projects whose applications have been rejected on lack of forest clearance in 2006-07 and 2007-08;

the names of 26 irrigation proposals which have been given permission for forest clearance in2006-07 and 2007-08;

the steps would be taken to assess some approvals on a comparatively fast and rapid pace;

whether a review would be done of all such clearances given for irrigation projects;

if so, the reasons therefor;

the details of the "Fast-Track-No-Faiiure" systepi for rapid environmental clearances operating since 2005-06; and

(g) the steps proposed to stop this Policy?

THE MFNISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY Qf ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl S. REGUPATHY): (a) Two Irrigation projects have been rejected d-uring 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, the names of 6 Irrigation projects, which were rejected durmg 01.08.2004 to 31.07.2006 on merits, are bemg ascertained from the concerned State Governments and will be placed before the House m due course of time.